

107TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. CON. RES. 282

Expressing the sense of Congress that the Social Security promise should be kept.

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IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

DECEMBER 6, 2001

Mr. SHAW submitted the following concurrent resolution; which was referred to the committee on Ways and Means

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## CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

Expressing the sense of Congress that the Social Security promise should be kept.

1        *Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate*  
2 *concurring),*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4        This concurrent resolution may be cited as the  
5 “Keeping the Social Security Promise Initiative”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7        The Congress finds that—

8            (1) Social Security provides essential income se-  
9        curity through retirement, disability, and survivor  
10        benefits for over 45 million Americans of all ages,

1 without which nearly 50 percent of seniors would  
2 live in poverty;

3 (2) Social Security is of particular importance  
4 for low earners, especially widows and women caring  
5 for children, without which nearly 53 percent of el-  
6 derly women would live in poverty;

7 (3) each payday, American workers send their  
8 hard-earned payroll taxes to Social Security and in  
9 return are promised income protections for them-  
10 selves and their families upon retirement, disability,  
11 or death, and that commitment must be kept;

12 (4) Social Security payments to beneficiaries  
13 will exceed worker contributions to the Social Secu-  
14 rity trust funds beginning in 2016, as demographics,  
15 including the aging baby boom generation and in-  
16 creasing life expectancies, will result in fewer work-  
17 ers per beneficiary and threaten Social Security's es-  
18 sential income safety net with financial instability  
19 and insolvency;

20 (5) deferring action to save Social Security will  
21 result in loss of public confidence in the program,  
22 will increase the likelihood of spending cuts to other  
23 essential programs, and will expose beneficiaries,  
24 particularly those with low earnings, to poverty-

1 threatening benefit cuts or reduce workers' take-  
2 home pay through burdensome payroll tax increases;

3 (6) workers' ability to save and invest for their  
4 own retirement will continue to be particularly im-  
5 portant, especially for younger workers, to enhance  
6 their own retirement security; and

7 (7) the President should be commended for rec-  
8 ognizing that Social Security is not prepared to fully  
9 fund the retirement of the baby boom and future  
10 generations and for establishing the bipartisan  
11 President's Commission to Strengthen Social Secu-  
12 rity, which will report its recommendations this fall.

13 **SEC. 3. SENSE OF THE CONGRESS.**

14 It is the sense of the Congress that—

15 (1) the President's Commission to Strengthen  
16 Social Security, recognizing the immense financial  
17 commitment of every American worker into the So-  
18 cial Security system, should present in its rec-  
19 ommendations innovative ways to protect that com-  
20 mitment without lowering benefits or increasing  
21 taxes; and

22 (2) the President and the Congress should join  
23 to develop legislation to strengthen Social Security  
24 as soon as possible, and such legislation should—

1           (A) recognize the obstacles women face in  
2           securing financial stability at retirement or in  
3           cases of disability or death and the essential  
4           role that the Social Security program plays in  
5           providing income security for women;

6           (B) recognize the unique needs of minori-  
7           ties and the critical role the Social Security pro-  
8           gram plays in preventing poverty and providing  
9           financial security for them and their families  
10          when income is reduced or lost due to retire-  
11          ment, disability, or death; and

12          (C) guarantee current law promised bene-  
13          fits, including cost-of-living adjustments that  
14          fully index for inflation, for current and future  
15          retirees, without increasing taxes.

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